वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० जालप्पा): (क) से (ङ) भारतीय अमरीकी वस्त्र करार तथा ऊरूग्वे दौर के वस्त्रों एवं क्लोथिंग पर करार (ए टी सी) के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत, अमरीका सरकार ने श्रेणियों 434 (जैट्स कोट), 435 (लैडीज कोट) तथा 440 (बुनी हुई शर्ट्स तथा ब्लाऊज) में भारत से ऊनी परिधानों के आयात पर एकपक्षीय प्रतिबंध (कोटा) लगाए थे।

ए० टी० सी० के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत विश्व व्यापार संगठन (डब्ल्यू टी ओ) के वस्त्र प्रबोधन निकाय (टीएमबी) ने अमरीका की कार्यवाही की समीक्षा की। अमरीका द्वारा 434 तथा 435 श्रेणियों पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध अब हटा लिए गए हैं। श्रेणी 440 के संबंध में सरकार ने डब्ल्यू टी ओ के विवाद समाधान निकाय (डीएसबी) में मामला उठाया है तथा इस मामले में निर्णय देने के लिए डीएसबी ने एक पैनल बनाया है।

ISI's Plan of Dumping Arms

1713. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Intelligence Agencies, Pakistan's ISI is working on a calculated plan to dump weapons in the country for use at an appropriate time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to thwart their designs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Government is aware that Pakistan's ISI agents have been making concerted efforts to establish foot-hold at certain places in India for subversive and espionage activities. Pak ISI has even been using smugglers along the borders and through the coastal regions as conduits to push in arms, ammunition, explosives and heroin etc., in India.

The Government is taking all necessary steps to combat and frustrate the designs of ISI by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence, and by coordinated action by concerned Central and State agencies. The Police and Intelligence organisations are under instructions to neutralise Pak ISI modules and activities in all parts of the country whenever and wherever these come to notice.

Opening of Post Office at Kota Giwai in Almora District

1714. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some requests from the people of Kota Giwai village in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no post office within a distance of 4 km. from Kota Giwai;

(c) if so, whether Government would give priority for opening of post office at Kota Giwai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal for opening of an extra Departmental Branch Post Office at Kota Giwai in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh was considered under Annual Plan, 1994-95. It could not however, be opened due to resource constraints. As soon as resources are available, it will be opened.

एक्सप्रैस हाइवेज का निर्माण

1715. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव**: क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1995 तक देश में कितने एक्सप्रैस हाइवेज के निर्माण के लिए स्वीकृति दी गई है;

(ख) एक्सप्रैस हाइवेज निर्माण के लिए स्वीकृत प्रावधान क्या है;

(ग) इन हाइवेज के निर्माण के लिए प्रति कि०मी० अनुमानित लागत कितनी है; और

(घ) स्वीकृत एक्सप्रैस हाइवेज के निर्माण और इस संबंध में अब तक प्राप्त उपलब्धियों का ब्यौरा क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी०जी० वेंकटरामन): (क) गुजरात राज्य में अहमदाबाद से बड़ोदरा तक केवल एक ही एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के निर्माण के लिए अनुमोदन दिया गया है।

(ख) वर्ष 1996-97 में इस एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के लिए 10 करोड़ रु० का प्रावधान है।

(ग) इस एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के निर्माण की अनुमानित लागत लगभग 4.29 करोड़ रु० प्रति किलोमीटर है।

(घ) इस एक्सप्रैस मार्ग के निर्माण के लिए जून, 1986 में अनुमोदन दिया गया था। लगभग 49% सड़क कार्य और 72% पुल कार्य अब तक पूरे कर लिए गए हैं।

Proposal to Enact a Law Banning the Sale of Lottery Tickets

1716. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan High Court had observed that Government should consider enacting a law banning the sale of lottery tickets throughout the country, since this is a social evil;

(b) if so, whether Government had also observed that it is not desirable that the revenue should be raised by encouraging gambling and immorality in society;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to enact a law banning the sale of lottery tickets throughout the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Though the Central Government does not conduct any lottery of its own, it has, over a period of time, sent guidelines to the State Governments for regulating the lottery trade. It is essentially for the State Governments to improve the monitoring and implementation of laws pertaining to the conduct of lotteries, gambling, etc. and to modify the laws depending on their impact on the socio-economic life of the people. In this context, it was felt that as the Supreme Court had already by an interim order on 21.4.1994 regulated the lottery trade considerably, its final judgement may be awaited before considering enactment of a legislation.

Formation of Indian Ocean Trade Zone

1717. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestion of ASSOCHAM that a study be undertaken on the formation of special trade zone comprising countries in the Indian Ocean zone; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is positively inclined to consider suggestions for cooperation among the Indian Ocean Rim countries, including in the area of trade. There are ongoing contacts to explore the possibility and scope of such cooperation.

India participated in the first International Meeting of Experts from seven Indian Ocean Rim Countries (viz. Australia, India, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman, Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius in March, 1995. The meeting agreed on the principles, objectives and direction of the future action programme of an Indian Ocean Rim association for regional cooperation to promote cooperation in trade, investment, science and technology, tourism and human resource